



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,155	10/25/2001	Jens Erik Sorensen	52-170	4326

22653 7590 06/04/2004

EDWARD W CALLAN
NO. 705 PMB 452
3830 VALLEY CENTRE DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92130

EXAMINER

CHOJNACKI, MELLISSA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2175

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

7

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/019,155

Applicant(s)

SORENSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Melissa M Chojnacki

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). A new abstract of the disclosure is required and must be presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text.

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper content of an abstract of the disclosure.

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains. If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement. In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or use thereof. If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following:

- (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation;
- (2) if an article, its method of making;
- (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use;
- (4) if a mixture, its ingredients;
- (5) if a process, the steps.

Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

3. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

Art Unit: 2175

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2175

5. Claims 1-12 and 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (Japanese Patent No. JP02002259289, translated copy enclosed) in view of Boone (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0078152).

As to claim 1, Saito et al. teaches a method of organizing ideas in a computer database (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"), comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"; also see page 6, claim 1, lines 1-12);

(c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See pages 17-18, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11).

Saito et al. does not teach including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches including positive comments and negative comments (See paragraph 0010, lines 3-11); (b) systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Art Unit: 2175

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., to include including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., by the teachings of Boone because including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

As to claim 2, Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(d) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an indication that the given form element is for entry of a positive comment (See Saito

et al., pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 4-26; page 29, paragraph 0033, lines 1-14; page 36, paragraph 0043, lines 1-17).

As to claims 3 and 21 Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an instruction to enter only a positive comment in the given form element (See Saito et al., pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 4-26; paragraph 0059, lines 1-11; page 36, paragraph 0043, lines 1-17; also see Boone, paragraph 009, lines 5-8; paragraph 0010, lines 1-11);

wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an instruction to enter only a positive comment in the given form element (See Saito et al., pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 4-26, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11; also see Boone, paragraph 009, lines 5-8; paragraph 0010, lines 1-11).

As to claim 4, Saito et al. as modified, teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral

Art Unit: 2175

comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11); and

(e) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See Saito et al., pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claims 5, and 16 Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein the contributed positive comment is also responsive to another negative comment in the database (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11) the method further comprising the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed positive comment and a display of the other negative comment (See Saito et al., pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11);

wherein the contributed positive comment is also responsive to another negative comment in the database (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other

Art Unit: 2175

users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11), and wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed positive comment and a display of the other negative comment (See Saito et al., pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claim 6, Saito et al. teaches a method of organizing ideas in a computer database (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"), comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"; also see page 6, claim1, lines 1-12);

(c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See pages 17-18, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11).

Saito et al. does not teach including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches including positive comments and negative comments (See paragraph 0010, lines 3-11); systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., to include including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., by the teachings of Boone because including positive comments and negative comments; systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in

Art Unit: 2175

deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

As to claim 7, Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of:

(d) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an indication that the given form element is for entry of a negative comment (See Saito et al., pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 4-26; page 29, paragraph 0033, lines 1-14).

As claim 8 and 20 Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein step (b) comprises the step of (e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an instruction to enter only a negative comment in the given form element (See Saito et al., pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 4-26; page 29, paragraph 0033, lines 1-14).

As claim 9, Saito et al. as modified, teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral

Art Unit: 2175

comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11); and providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See Saito et al., pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As claim 10, Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein the contributed negative comment is also responsive to another positive comment in the database (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11), the method further comprising the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the other positive comment (See Saito et al., pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Art Unit: 2175

As to claims 11 and 22 Saito et al. as modified, teaches, wherein step (d) comprises the step of

(e) directing the contributor of the contributed comment, to provide the link recited in step (d) by using a given computer-displayed button (See Boone, paragraph 0051, lines 19-29).

As to claims 12 and 23 Saito et al. as modified, teaches, enabling both comments to be displayed simultaneously in a common screen display (See Saito et al., page 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 7-18; page 50, paragraph 0064, lines 1-5).

As to claim 14, Saito et al. teaches a computer readable storage medium (media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to organize ideas in a computer database (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"), wherein the instructions cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas, including positive comments and negative comments (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"; also see page 6, claim 1, lines 1-12);

(c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See pages 17-18, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11).

Saito et al. does not teach systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive

Art Unit: 2175

comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., to include systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., by the teachings of Boone because systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

As claim 15, Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

(d) systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11); and

(e) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See Saito et al., pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11);

As to claim 17, Saito et al. teaches a computer readable storage medium (media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer system to organize ideas in a computer database (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"), wherein the instructions cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

Art Unit: 2175

(a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas, including positive comments and negative comments (See page 4, section "Problem to be Solved"; also see page 6, claim1, lines 1-12);

(c) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the positive comment and a display of the contributed negative comment (See pages 17-18, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11).

Saito et al. does not teach systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

Boone teaches a method and apparatus for providing predefined feedback (See abstract), in which he teaches systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., to include systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Saito et al., by the teachings of Boone because systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a displayed positive comment, to contribute a negative comment for entry into the database by using a given computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution would provide the buyer/contributor and seller/inventor with a feedback forum in which either user can leave comments about the other that may be of use to other users in the future in deciding whether to bid or sell from a particular user (See Boone, paragraph 009, lines 1-5).

As claim 18, Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the steps of:

(d) systematically directing a contributor of a comment, which is in response to a display of the contributed negative comment, to contribute a positive comment for entry into the database by using a computer-displayed form element adapted for receiving the contribution (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11); and

(e) providing a bi-directional access link between the display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the contributed positive comment (See Saito et al.,

Art Unit: 2175

pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

As to claim 19, Saito et al. as modified, teaches wherein the contributed negative comment is also responsive to another positive comment in the database (See Saito et al., page 6, claim 1, where the phrase "other users' comment" inherently encompass any type of comment from the user, which would include negative, positive or neutral comments". Also see pages 48-49, paragraph 0062, lines 1-29; pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11), and wherein the instructions further cause the computer system to perform the step of:

(d) providing a bi-directional access link between a display of the contributed negative comment and a display of the other positive comment; herein step (b) comprises the step of: (e) systematically providing on a display screen displaying the given form element an instruction to enter only a negative comment in the given form element (See Saito et al., pages 49-50, paragraph 0063, lines 1-9; also see Boone, paragraph 0010, lines 1-11; paragraph 0012, lines 1-7, paragraph 0057, lines 1-8, paragraph 0059, lines 1-11).

6. Claims 13 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. (Japanese Patent No. JP02002259289) in view of Boone (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0078152), as applied to claims 1-12 and 14-23 above,

Art Unit: 2175

and further in view of Smith III et al., (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0036947).

As to claims 13 and 24 Saito et al. as modified, still does not teach, wherein the positive comments include solution ideas and the negative comments include problem ideas.

Smith III et al. teaches systems and methods for submission, development and evaluation of ideas in an organization (See abstract) in which he teaches wherein the positive comments include solution ideas and the negative comments include problem ideas (See paragraph 0032, lines 5-9; paragraph 0040, lines 1-4; paragraph 0045, lines 1-3; paragraph 0050, lines 1-8; paragraph 0078, lines 1-12, where "comments" is read on "contributions").

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified Saito et al. as modified, to include wherein the positive comments include solution ideas and the negative comments include problem ideas.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Saito et al. as modified, by the teachings of Smith III et al., because wherein the positive comments include solution ideas and the negative comments include problem ideas would allow others outside the submitting team the opportunity to provide supporting information or insight that could enhance the original idea or evaluate alternative applications of the idea (See Smith III et al., paragraph 004).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to the Organizing Ideas Accumulated in a Computer Database in general:

U.S. Patent No. 5,566,291 to Boulton et al., for disclosing a method and apparatus for implementing user feedback.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mellissa M. Chojnacki whose telephone number is 730-305-8769. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/019,155
Art Unit: 2175

Page 20

Mmc
May 20, 2004



SAM RIMELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER